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The Nation's Press Views

WEST COAST INCIDENTS

... a partial roundup of
news clippings and
editorial comment

I "SECRETARY ICKES TONIGHT DENOUNCED"
II "NISEI TERROR STRIKES AGAIN"
III THE EDITORS SPEAK

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 5-25-45

C-2290 Cover

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 5-25-42

ICKES ASSAILS ANTI-NISEISM

"Terrorism By Hoodlums" In California Denounced

Washington, May 12 (AP)—Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, tonight denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural California, declaring that fifteen shooting attacks had brought no suspects to trial.

As evacuees return to their farms and homes, Ickes charged the "hoodlums grow more desperate in their lawlessness."

"Some of them see that they will not be able to establish an economic beachhead on the property of the evacuees they vainly hoped would sell out or run out."

Three Arson Cases

Besides the shooting attempts, Ickes reported one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases and five "threatening visits."

The only instance of asserted terrorism in which arrests were made and a trial held, it was stated, was in the case listed by the War Relocation Authority as a dynamiting attempt resulting in acquittal by the jury of three defendants.

The fact that none of the evacuees has been hit or suffered physical injury in any of the incidents, the Secretary said, proves that "terror is the motive in these crimes."

"Pattern Of Terrorism"

"In the absence of vigorous local law enforcement, a pattern of planned terrorism by hoodlums has developed," he stated.

"It is a matter of national concern because this lawless minority whose actions are condemned by the decent citizens who make up an overwhelming majority of West Coast residents, seems determined to employ its Nazi storm-trooper tactics against loyal Japanese-Americans and law-abiding Japa-

(*Continued from Page* 1)

nese aliens in spite of the state laws and constitutional safeguards designed to protect the lives and property of all of the people of this country."

"Many of the evacuees' Nisei sons are fighting the Japanese enemy in the Philippines, at Okinawa and in other Pacific combat areas," Ickes continued.

Homes With Service Stars

"They are far more in the American tradition than the race-baiters fighting a private war safely at home."

Shots have been fired into the homes of families with American service-flag stars in the windows, Ickes said.

Ickes's statement was based on a report by the War Relocation Authority covering incidents of the last four months. The report covered only instances of violence, the Interior Secretary said, and did not include "economic boycotts and advertising campaigns conducted in Oregon, Washington and California against Japanese-Americans, or vandalism and theft of their property."

"Must Be Protected"

"Persons of Japanese ancestry eligible to go back to the Pacific states, who have homes, farms and other legitimate reasons to return, will continue to do so and must be protected," Ickes declared.

The report cited instances of terrorism in various cities including San Jose, Cressy and elsewhere, and said incidents had occurred in ten central and southern California counties—Placer, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, Los Angeles and Orange.

Incidents Related

Relating some of the incidents, the statement said:

"At San Jose in Santa Clara county late on the night of March 6 shots were fired at the home of Joe Takeda by men who also cut the telephone wires, poured gasoline under the house and near-by sheds and set fire to them. The Takeda family of ten evacuees, aided by a heavy rain, put out the fire.

"The night riders slowly cruised past the house, driving their car along the highway 75 feet away. They fired one shot on the first trip and two shots on the fourth trip past the house. One revolver slug went over the heads of two children on the porch and smashed into the bedroom wall.

Shots Fired At Veteran

"At Cressy in Merced county, four shots were fired at an honorably discharged Nisei veteran, Bob Morimoto, his wife and two other family members on February 5. Two shots were fired at them on April 22.

Twenty minutes earlier, four shots, coming from a high-powered rifle of the same caliber as that used against the Morimotos, were fired into the home of Chiyoko Kishi at near-by Livingston while six evacuees were present.

"Two soldier sons of the Kishis at Fort Snelling, Minn., wired to Secretary Ickes and Dillon S. Myer, director of WRA, asking protection of the lives and property of their family. They were informed that WRA already had sent an investigator to Merced county and had brought the shootings to the attention of Attorney General Robert Kenny, of California, who assigned a State Justice Department representative to the cases.

Shooting Attempts By Counties

"Seven shooting attempts have taken place in Merced county, three in Fresno county, and one each in Santa Clara, Kern, Madera, Tulare and Los Angeles counties. . . .

"Among the Japanese Americans who were targets for a total of 54 shots from rifles, revolvers and shotguns, death came closest to Minoru Ohasi, an honorably discharged soldier. On March 26, while he and his family were being visited at their Madera home by his brother-in-law, Corporal Y. A. Kawamoto, an American soldier in uniform and on furlough, five shots were fired into the house. One bullet crashed into the wall six inches from Ohasi's head.

"One family, the WRA report shows, that of T. Andow, at Cressy, in Merced county, was shot at three times, with attacks occurring on the nights of January 25 and 31 and on April 1.

Arson And Threats

"The three arson cases reported occurred in Fresno, Kern and Placer counties.

"Five threatening visits were listed, all in California, with two in Fresno county and one each in Tulare, San Joaquin and Orange counties. One of the examples cited was at Orosi in Tulare county, where on January 22 a group . . . appeared and threatened the evacuee owners of a fruit and vegetable ranch, giving them a set deadline to leave. The evacuees stuck it out and the deadline passed without harm to them, although other evacuees in the area were shot at within the next two weeks."

6 Part I—MONDAY, MAY 14, 1945 * Los Angeles Times

ICKES HITS ATTACKS ON CALIFORNIA JAPS

Lawless Minority Scored for Attempts to Deprive Returned Evacues of Peaceful Life

WASHINGTON, May 12. (AP) Interior Secretary Ickes tonight denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons [illegible] descent [illegible]

"Many of the evaeues' Nisei sons are fighting the Japanese enemy in the Philippines, at Okinawa ar[illegible] other Pacific combat[illegible]

The Salt Lake Tribune
Monday Morning, May 14, 1945

Ickes Denounces Coast's Treatment of Nisei

WASHINGTON, May 13 (AP)—Interior Secy. Harold L. Ickes Sunday night denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural California, declar[illegible] that 15 shooting attac[illegible] had

Nisei sons are fighting the Japanese enemy in the Philippines, at Okinawa and in other Pacific combat areas.

"They are [illegible] Americ[illegible] race[illegible]

NEW YORK NEWS May 14, 1945

U. S.-Japs Terrorized On Coast, Ickes Says

By THURSTON PORTER
of THE NEWS Bureau

A2088

Washington, D. C., May 13.—Twenty-four terror attacks have been made in the past four months by hoodlums against persons of Japanese ancestry who have returned to Cali[illegible] [illegible] Interior Harold L. Icke[illegible]

WASHINGTON (D.C.) POST May 14, 1945

Ickes Denounces 'Terrorism' Against Japanese-Americans

Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes last night denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in [illegible] California, declarin[illegible] that 15 attacks h[illegible]

laws and constitutional safeguards designed to protect the lives and property of all of the people of this country."

". . . Many of the evac[illegible] ei sons are fighting the [illegible] emy in the Phil[illegible] d in o[illegible]

St. Louis, Mo.
STAR-TIMES
May 14, 1945

Terror Campaign On Jap-Americans Charged By Ickes

WASHINGTON, May 14.—(UP)—Secretary of the Interior Ickes reported last night that hoodlums are carrying on a program of planned terrorism against Japa[illegible] [illegible] have retur[illegible]

The NEW YORK TIMES
May 14, 1945

ICKES SCORES ATTACKS ON LOYAL JAPANESE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 13—Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, reporting twenty-four instances of violence or open [illegible]

Omaha, Neb. EVENING
WORLD HERALD
May 14, 1945

Ickes Lashes Nisei Attacks

'In 15 Shootings, No Suspects Tried'

Washington (AP)—Interior Secretary Ickes Sunday night denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural California, declaring that 15 shooting attacks had [illegible]ght no suspects to trial.

[illegible]ees return to their

CHICAGO SUN
May 14, 1945

Ickes Views Nisei As Victims of Plot

A2088

WASHINGTON, May 13.—(UP)—Secretary of the Interior Ickes reported [illegible]

New York PM May 14, 1945

Assaults on Nisei A2088 Stir Ickes' Wrath

Sees Planned Terrorism in Coast Incidents

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes reported last night that hoodlums are carrying on a program of planned terrorism against Americans of Japanese extraction who have returned to California from War Relocation centers.

He listed 15 shooting attacks, one attempted dynamiting, three [illegible] cases and five threatening

PROVIDENCE (R.I.) JOURNAL
May 14, 1945

ICKES DENOUNCES NISEI TERRORISM

Cites 15 Shooting Cases in Rural California to Scare Jap-Americans

Washington, May 12.—(AP)—Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes tonight denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of [illegible] Californi

Minneapolis
MORNING TRIBUNE
May 14, 1945

Ickes Charges Nisei Terrorism

WASHINGTON— (UP) —Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes reported Sunday night hood- [illegible] program [illegible] st Japa- [illegible]

Phoenix, Ariz.
ARIZONA REPUBLIC
May 14, 1945

Ickes Scores Jap-Baiters

WASHINGTON, May 13—(AP)—Harold L. Ickes, interior secretary tonight denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against per- [illegible] Japanese descent in rural [illegible] declaring that 15 shoot- [illegible] sus- [illegible]

NEW YORK POST
May 14, 1945

Ickes Scores Attacks on Loyal Japs

Special to The Post

Washington, May 14 — Interior Secretary Ickes today warned West Coast enforcement officers to be on guard against "terrorists, cloaking themselves in false patriotism," who attempt outrages on Japanese who have re-

DETROIT FREE PRESS
May 14, 1945

Ickes Blasts Attacks On Coast Nisei

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural Cali- [illegible] said that 15 [illegible]

Atlanta, Ga.
DAILY WORLD (Negro)
May 16, 1945

Terrorism To Nisei Denounced

WASHINGTON — (SNS) — Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes Tuesday had denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural California. He said that [illegible] attacks had bro- [illegible]

Augusta, Maine
KENNEBEC JOURNAL
May 14, 1945

Hits Terrorism Against Nisei

Washington, May 12—(AP)—Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes tonight denounced "planned [illegible] terrorism by hoodlums" aga- [illegible]

Cleveland PLAIN DEALER
May 14, 1945

ATTACKS ON JAPS IN U. S. DENOUNCED

Ickes Takes Hand in West Coast Terrorism

WASHINGTON, May 13—(AP)—Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes night denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons se descent in rural Cali-

Los Angeles, Calif.
TIMES
5/14/45

St. Louis, Mo.
POST DISPATCH
May 14, 1945

15 SHOOTING ATTACKS ON JAP-AMERICANS

Ickes Says Group Must Be Protected; Denounces 'Terrorism by Hoodlums.'

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Interior Secr
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Chicago DAILY NEWS
May 14, 1945

Ickes Blasts Attacks on Japs In California

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes last night denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural California, declaring that 15 shooting attacks had brought no suspects to

W.R.A. DISCLOSES NEW ANTI-JAP TERRORISM

WASHINGTON, May 14. (U.P.) The War Relocation Authority today reported two new incidents in a campaign of terrorism [illegible] Japanese [illegible]

terror campaign in a city. The others have been in rural communities.

The other incident took place Talbert Orange County

New York HERALD TRIBUNE
May 14, 1945

Ickes Assails Assaults Upon U. S. Japanese

A2088

Calls Terrorism Incidents 'Storm Trooper Tactics'; Cites 24 Acts of Violence

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Denouncing in the strongest terms "Nazi storm trooper tactics," Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, announced today that there have been twenty-four incidents of violence and intimidation within the last four months against persons of Japanese ancestry who turned to Californi

San Francisco, Calif.
CHRONICLE 5/14/45

Our Own Terrorism

Ickes Assails California's Japanese Raids

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, May 12—Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes tonight denounced the "planned terrorism by hoodlums" agai
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tacks had

Spokane, Wash.
SPOKESMAN REVIEW
May 14, 1945

ICKES DENOUNCES HOODLUM TACTICS

By Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes tonight denounced "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in rural California, declaring that 15 shooting
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turn to their farms
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desperate in

PORTLAND OREGONIAN
5/14/45

Ickes Denounces Terrorism Of Japs; Protection Pledged

WASHINGTON, May 13 (AP) Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes Sunday night denounced "planned terrorism b
lums" against pers
nese descent in r
claring, the

American service flag stars in the windows, Ickes said.

Ickes' statement was based on reports by the War Relocation Authority covering incidents of the last four month

C-2290 P4 bu

The Place	The Headline
Omaha, Nebraska MORNING WORLD HERALD	ICKES LASHES NISEI ATTACKS
Denver, Colorado ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS	ICKES HITS TERROR REIGN AGAINST JAP-AMERICANS
Boston, Mass. BOSTON GLOBE	ICKES SAYS HOODLUMS ARE TERRORIZING LOYAL JAPANESE IN CALIFORNIA
Salt Lake City, Utah SALTLAKE TRIBUNE	ICKES DENOUNCES COASTS TREATMENT OF NISEI
Des Moines, Iowa DES MOINES REGISTER	ICKES DENOUNCES TERRORISM AGAINST NISEI IN CALIFORNIA
Des Moines, Iowa DES MOINES TRIBUNE	ACT ON THREAT

San Francisco, Cal. CHRONICLE May 15

Two More California Nisei Incidents Reported by WRA

WASHINGTON, May 14 (UP) — War Relocation Authority today reported two new incidents in a campaign of terrorism against Japanese-Americans in California.

The new incidents were in addition to 15 shooting attacks, one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases and five threatening visits which Secretary of Interior Ickes said last night had taken place in California in the past four months.

One of the new acts of terrorism took place in Fresno, Cal., at the home of Setsugo Sakamoto, 61, who has an adopted son now fighting with the U. S. Army in the Philippines, and a son-in-law in the Army at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Sakamoto and another son-in-law, James Collier, and Mrs. Collier, were at home the night of May 8 when someone approached and fired three revolver shots, the WRA said.

One of the .38 caliber bullets entered the house and lodged in the wall a foot from Mrs. Collier's head.

Sakamoto's adopted son, Eddie Aburaman, has been fighting in the Pacific for 26 months. The son-in-law at Fort Snelling is Hoagy Ogawa.

WRA said this was the first shooting in connection with the terror campaign to take place in a city. The others have been in rural communities.

The other incident took place in Talbert, Orange county, Cal., where a group of men have been calling on returned evacuees and telling them to leave.

On May 4, according to WRA, they called on Mary Masuda, who was staying with a family named Trudeaux, and told her to get out. Miss Masuda was afraid to report the incident at first, WRA said.

Four of her brothers, WRA said, have been in the service. One, Kazuo, 25, was killed at Cassino. Another, Takashi, was wounded while fighting with a unit of the 442nd Regiment which rescued a lost U. S. battalion in the Vosges mountains of France last fall. A third brother, Masao, 26, is now en route to Talbert on furlongh, and a fourth, Mits, has been medically discharged.

WRA said neither of these incidents has been reported before. It will report others as they learn them, the agency said.

In his statement last night Ickes blamed the terrorism against loyal Japanese-Americans on a minority employing "Nazi Storm Trooper tactics" in the hope of getting control of evacuees' property.

New York PM
May 15, 1945

Nisei Terror Strikes Again

2 New Incidents Added to Ickes' List

By United Press

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The War Relocation Authority has reported two new incidents in a campaign of terrorism against Americans of Japanese ancestry in California. The new incidents were in addition to 15 shooting attacks, one attempting dynamiting, three arson cases and five threatening visits listed Sunday by Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes.

One of the new acts of terrorism took place in Fresno. At the home of Setsugo Sakamoto, 61, who has an adopted son now fighting with the U. S. Army in the Philippines, and a son-in-law in the Army at Fort Snelling, Minn. Sakamoto and another son-in-law, James Collier, and Mrs. Collier were at home the night of May 8 when someone approached and fired three revolver shots, the WRA said. One of the bullets entered the house and lodged in the wall a foot from Mrs. Collier's head.

The other incident took place in Talbert, Orange County, where men have been calling on returned evacuees and telling them to leave. On May 4, according to WRA, they called on Mary Masuda, who was staying with a family named Trudeaux, and told her to get out. Four of her brothers, WRA said, have been in the service. One, Kauzuo, 25, was killed at Cassino.

In his statement Sunday, Ickes blamed the terrorism on a minority employing "Nazi storm trooper tactics" in the hope of getting control of evacuees' property.

WASHINGTON (D.C.) NEWS
May 14, 1945

NEWS BULLETINS

Plans Disclosed

[illegible] has requested "firm [illegible] of locations in the [illegible] its post-war plans. [illegible] of naval [illegible]erations Committee [illegible]day that the [illegible]ecretary of [illegible]e approval [illegible]avy also [illegible]where [illegible]s for [illegible]e a

2½ Million for St. Eliza.

Construction of a 50[illegible]-bed, five ing to replace temporary structu pansion of warehouse facilities at beth's Hospital with approval toda House Appropriations Committee whi the institution's $2,500,000 post-war co tion program. Other appropriations app Freedmen's Hospital, $79[illegible]750; Howard versity, $39,000; St. Elizabeth's, another 114,400 for operation.

New Incidents of Terrorism

The War Relocation Authority today reported two new incidents in a campaign of terrorism against Japanese-Americans in California. The new incidents were in addition to 15 shooting attacks, one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases, and five threatening visits which Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes said last night had taken place in California in the past four months.

Sisters of Jap-American GI Heroes Resent California 'Storm-Trooping'

Mrs. Hisako Kobayashi, of 2661 South Nash-st, Arlington, is bewildered and angered today after learning of the treatment her sister Mary received when she returned recently to her home in Santa Ana, Calif.

"It's hard to believe people could be so cruel," cried Mrs. Kobayashi. "One of our brothers was killed serving America in this war, another was wounded in France, one has received a medical discharge and a fourth is about to go overseas. Can there be any doubt about our patriotism."

But in California a group of Santa Ana men, using what Secretary Ickes has decreed as "Nazi storm trooper tactics," threatened to kill Mary if she remained to find out disposition of the farm her father had spent 40 years building up. He was forced to leave it and all his furnishings at the time of relocation of West Coast Japs.

Mary's is one of 26 such "incidents" reported by the War Relocation Authority here, in which acts of violence, shooting and open intimidation have been directed against Americans whose parents happened to have come from Japan.

Lovely little Mrs. Kobayashi has her own problems. With three small boys and with her husband employed in the Office of Strategic Services here, she is afraid to return to her home in Glenn Dale, Calif.

"I cannot subject my children to conditions like that," she said. "Here it is like it was in California before the war. We had no Japanese friends there—all Caucasian friends. We did not speak Japanese, and all our customers at our produce farm were Caucasians."

MARY FINDS REFUGE

Her husband had spent eight years building a nursery and produce business they had to sell at terrific loss when they were moved to the Gila River relocation camp, she said.

She tried bravely to smile thru tears as she told how her sister was finally offered a place to stay in Santa Ana by the mother of a soldier who was killed fighting Japanese on Guam.

"That mother knows the difference between Americans whose parents fled Japan, and the Japanese who are our enemies," said Mrs. Kobayashi. "Why can't other people understand, too?"

Five-year-old Billy, Benny 9, and Teddy 7 (left to right), don't know the difference yet between their playmates and themselves, but their mother, Mrs. Hisako Kobayashi, has suffered three years of exile from their California home because her parents happened to come from Japan.

C-3290 P7 bu

WILMINGTON (DEL.) NEWS
May 15, 1945

A Shameful Record

Every decent American will join Secretary of the Interior Ickes in deploring the continuing campaign of terrorism against citizens of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. This lawless intolerance, this relentless persecution of a small and helpless minority have no place on American soil.

We take a special pride in being fair. There is no fairness in the reception given men and women of Japanese ancestry who have returned to California from war location centers during the past four months. In that time, according to Secretary Ickes, there have been 24 incidents of violence and intimidation including 15 shooting attacks, one dynamiting and five threatening visits.

It is not enough to shrug off this campaign of terrorism as the work of a small, lawless minority whose actions are condemned by the majority of law-abiding citizens. The fact remains that not a single suspect has been brought to trial in any of the 15 shooting incidents. The entire community shares the blame by its failure to insist upon the sort of vigorous law enforcement which would swiftly put an end to terrorism.

The safeguards of the Constitution are not the property of any special class. They apply with equal force to every citizen, to loyal Japanese-Americans as well as to Americans of every other ancestry and background. We are weakening the foundations of our most cherished institutions when we fail to give their lives and possessions the full protection that is their constitutional right.

BALTIMORE EVENING SUN
May 14, 1945

Mr. Ickes Is Right

Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, may tend to exaggerate the extent to which West Coast opposition to the return of the Nisei Japanese is organized; but he is on solid ground in his denunciation of that opposition. He calls it "planned terrorism by hoodlums" who covet the property owned by persons of Japanese ancestry. Just how much it is a planned campaign is in doubt; the chances are that the attempts to frighten away the Nisei have thus far been impromptu local manifestations by irresponsible people rather than the workings of a carefully plotted campaign of terrorism. However, it is reprehensible, whatever the case.

These Nisei, or second-generation Japanese-Americans, are American citizens by birth, schooling and general outlook. Many of them have relatives in the American armed forces. They have been released from relocation centers and permitted to return to their truck farms only after careful investigation has shown them to be loyal. Yet gangs of night riders have fired at the homes of these people and committed acts of vandalism against their property—plainly in an effort to intimidate them into selling out and leaving.

This is the kind of terrorism Americans have condemned when it was committed by Nazis. It cannot be permitted to go on unchecked here at home. The Nisei have human rights which ought to be respected. They have the rights of citizens, which the law protects.

CHICAGO SUN
May 15, 1945

Protect the Nisei's Rights

TO THE "24 incidents" cited by Secretary Ickes in charging organized terrorism against relocated Japanese-Americans in California, two others have been added.

Three revolver shots were fired into the home of Setsugo Sakamoto, whose adopted son is now fighting with the American Philippines armies and whose son-in-law also is in the services. A girl, Mary Masuda, is staying with a Caucasian family. One of her brothers was killed at Cassino, another wounded fighting to rescue a U. S. unit trapped in the Vosges Mountains. Miss Masuda two weeks ago was "called upon" by a threatening group and warned to "get out."

Gov. Warren and Attorney General Kenny of California have been diligent, according to all reports, in attempting to suppress anti-Nisei hoodlumism. But the federal government also has an obligation to protect all its citizens against organized violation of their rights. An F.B.I. inquiry and federal grand jury indictments probably could halt the shootings, the arson and the dynamitings by putting some of the thugs and night riders into federal prison.

A Blast at Intolerance

SECRETARY ICKES' denunciation of the planned terrorism against persons of Japanese descent in West Coast States is very much in order. Much as the Secretary is given to popping off, this is once when nobody who thinks twice can dispute with him.

The outrages against returning evacuees are contrary to every cherished American principle. The victims are loyal citizens, entitled by every right to the same protection the law affords their neighbors. Not one of the hoodlums has yet been caught.

It doesn't seem reasonable that law enforcement agencies could accidentally be that blind. But if there is sympathy for the hoodlums on the part of constituted authorities, it is time a higher power stepped in to show them that there is no room anywhere in this country for the philosophy this terrorism reflects.

There was a time when every person of Japanese ancestry was suspect. But that time has passed. Those permitted to return to their properties have been carefully investigated and given a clean bill of patriotic health. Big as this country is, it isn't large enough to fight a war against tyranny and oppression and tolerate them at home.

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER
May 15, 1945

Terror on the West Coast

Not even the normally vehement Harold L. Ickes can find words sufficiently strong for the denunciation of those irresponsible hoodlums on the west coast who, without a thought to the principles for which young Americans have been giving their lives all over the globe, have been terrorizing other loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry whose only desire is to return to the homes from which they were so rudely evicted after Pearl Harbor.

As Secretary Ickes points out with justified, righteous anger, many of the Nisei homes into which shots have been fired have American service flag stars in their windows. Many of their sons fought bravely in Europe, contributing to the destruction of the once mighty Nazi menace which was founded in racial hatred. Others are fighting and dying in the Pacific to help prevent the land of their ancestors from ever again threatening the peace and security of America.

We have been proud in the United States that we did not repeat our behavior of the First World War, when thousands of loyal German-Americans were harassed and terrorized by official and unofficial persecutors. It will prove to have been a false pride if we do not as a nation rise up in protest against similar treatment of the Japanese-Americans.

If we are to retain our self-respect, the public officials of California, Washington and Oregon especially must act vigorously to end this terrorism and give the Nisei the protection which is their right as unoffending residents or citizens of a free country.

PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN
May 15, 1945

What Secretary of Interior Ickes said Sunday about the treatment given American citizens of Japanese descent in California, his denunciation of "planned terrorism by hoodlums," long needed to be said by someone high in authority at Washington.

Ickes has in the past borne his full share of criticism of some New Deal experiments, but he was on sound liberal ground in his attacks against those responsible for the recent wave of shootings, dynamitings and arson attempts against U. S.-Japanese evacuees returned to their homes and farms in the Far West.

These people who have suffered threats and sometimes actual violence at the hands of California night-riders are not aliens, they are American citizens, entitled to the full protection of all American laws. It is to the shame of the State of California that local justice winks at such outrages to the extent that, as the Secretary says, 15 shooting attempts alone have brought no suspects to trial.

It is all the more incomprehensible to fair-minded people that such things could go on side by side with the fine record of Japanese in our fighting forces. Many of the homes attacked had service flags in their windows, perhaps some of them representing sons or husbands who fought in Italy with the Japanese-American battalion praised by Gen. Mark Clark as one of his crack units.

At the root of these cowardly attacks lies the resentment felt by many Californians toward Japanese truck-farmers and other small business men who are willing to work harder for lower pay than their white competitors. As Secretary Ickes declared:

"Some of them see that they will not be able to establish an economic beachhead on the property of the evacuees they vainly hoped would sell out or run out."

It is probably too much to hope these terrorists will remember that this is the land of equal opportunity, where every American citizen has the constitutional right to earn his living in his own free way Furthermore, they are forgetting the example they set to delegates of the 49 nations meeting at San Francisco to chart a course of world law and order that will make Fascism or Nazism impossible in the future.

No one can blame our foreign visitors for reflecting, when they read of these incidents, that the nation hailed as perhaps the greatest contributor to uprooting of the Nazi menace in Europe holds the seeds of that same abominable system right in the hearts of a tiny minority of its own people.

C-2290 P10 bu

New London, Conn.
DAY May 15, 1945

An Unfair Business

FOR once we find ourselves thoroughly in agreement with Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, who stated recently that the persecution of the loyal Japanese-Americans in California reminds him of the tactics of the Nazi storm troopers. It is, he says, a matter of national concern that "terrorism planned by hoodlums" should be turned against persons of Japanese ancestry who, in the great majority of cases, not only have proved their loyalty to the United States beyond any possible doubt but are American citizens. Many are native born Americans, too. Most of them, during the early days of the war, were removed from the Pacific coast area to relocation camps inland, not because there was any real doubt as to their loyalty but to be thorough on the matter of protective measures. They are now coming back to the region with government permission, a few at a time. Secretary Ickes thinks some of their neighbors are trying to get them to abandon their farm lands, so the property can be purchased for much less than its real value.

He cites 24 incidents that amount to acts of violence against these persons. For instance, there have been 15 cases of use of firearms to frighten these families — shots, for instance, fired through windows of homes displaying service flags for sons, also Japanese-Americans, who are fighting heroically for the United States. Direct intimidation and threats have been tried, too, and in one instance a dynamite blast. Thus far no Japanese-American has been hurt, the pattern apparently being one of "education" and terrorization, at this stage. Practically all this terrorism has occurred in rural areas. It is, of course, true enough that the agricultural element of rural California has long been at odds with many of the Japanese living there before there was any hint of war. Their complaints are many; one of the chief ones is that the Japanese are too successful in the growing of garden truck, and undersell the market.

Of course there is a problem in dealing with these persons. There is bound to be. But it is a sad commentary upon the American system if persons of Japanese ancestry who are, beyond all possible question, loyal to this country — perhaps more so than some who are trying to drive them out of California—and who in most instances are citizens by birth, as well, are to be persecuted because of their race. True enough, the nation made some bad mistakes in dealing with Japanese whose loyalty and antecedents had not been investigated, before the war broke out, but this is no excuse for a campaign against those who are good, loyal citizens. There has been a lot of this in different areas —even in the east when some of the Japanese were moved to this area. It ought to bring prompt investigation and stern punishment.

Lewiston, Maine
SUN May 15, 1945

NEW YORK TIMES
May 16, 1945

RIDERS IN THE NIGHT

In the early days of the war, when invasion was a haunting fear, the military authorities decided upon wholesale removal of Japanese-Americans from the West Coast. More than 100,000 of them, men, women and children, were placed in eight Relocation Centers and held for thirty months. During their exile other Japanese-Americans of military age who had gone into the Army voluntarily or by induction proved their valor on the battlefields of Italy, winning the commendation of General Clark. Others died as Americans fighting Japanese in the Pacific. Meantime, the danger of invasion passed, and last December permission was given to loyal Japanese-Americans to return. About one-third headed east. The others gradually went back to their homes on the West Coast.

For months now riders in the night in California have been spreading terror and applying the torch to the homes of many who went back at the request of their Government and in abiding faith that they would be left alone to work their land, for most were farmers. No fewer than twenty-four instances of "violence or open intimidation" have been recorded by the War Relocation Authority, and Secretary Ickes charges that in not one of the shooting cases has a suspect been put on trial. Yet there have been fifteen such cases, in addition to three arson cases, five threatening visits and one attempt at dynamiting. Obviously, our law-enforcement officers are making no effort to enforce the law. That policy will merely encourage excesses that should be stopped.

WASHINGTON (D.C.) POST
May 17, 1945

Planned Terrorism

Secretary Ickes' habit of calling a spade by its commonly accepted name was never put to better use than in his characterization of the recent West Coast attacks on American citizens of Japanese ancestry. These constitute, he said, "a pattern of planned terrorism by hoodlums." He also pointed his finger squarely at their ugly purpose—to set up "an economic beachhead on the property of the evacuees." This is precisely what all the racist frenzy, all the talk about spies and saboteurs, boils down to. Some people who want to take over farmland owned by the evacuees have hired gunmen and plug-uglies to frighten these citizens away from their homes. The technique differs in no essential respect from that employed in Germany by those who coveted the property of Jews.

Mr. Ickes is quite right, too, in his assertion that these "Nazi stormtrooper tactics" are "a matter of national concern." Hoodlumism is never more contagious than when it is practiced against a racial minority. Let the tactics succeed in California and they will find imitators elsewhere. Their success in Germany led inevitably first to the obliteration of all minority elements and then to the enslavement of the entire nation. That they have been pursued in California is due to the fact that their practitioners have masked their real motives by appealing to the prejudices of unthinking people. This, too, was the pattern in Germany.

The remedy is forthright exposure of the sort Mr. Ickes has initiated. He should be supported now by the public officials of California who understand quite as well as he does the nature of this sinister racket. And those public officials should have the vigorous backing of all responsible citizens of the State who care about preservation of the democratic process. Terrorism is incompatible with a free society.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL
May 17, 1945

Terrorism in America

Even the stinging phrases of Curmudgeon Ickes are inadequate to a proper condemnation of the lawless attacks on the property and persons of Americans of Japanese descent who have returned to home and farms on the west coast. It is shocking and scandalous that these Americans should now be subject to abuse and terrorism when they attempt to resume their pre-war occupations in their home communities. Their kin have been among the bravest to wear their country's uniform. They themselves have been subject to dislocation and loss because of war conditions and war prejudices entirely beyond their control.

Secretary Ickes berates local authorities for failing to give proper protection to these Americans, but he neglects to add that the authorities would certainly act more vigorously and effectively if there were a general popular desire for such action.

The hoodlums who perpetrate such "planned terrorism" are a lawless minority, as Secretary Ickes says. It is probably true that such actions are condemned by "the decent citizens who make up the overwhelming majority." But the fact seems to be that, while the method would hardly be condoned by these decent citizens, racial prejudice is so strong and so general that there is little inclination to expose and punish those who resort to violence in an effort to expel these Nisei.

In other words, the west coast hoodlums are from the same mold as the lynching mobs that whipped and burned and terrified southern Negroes, and the present lawlessness goes largely unpunished for the same reason.

The roots of the Pacific coast outbreaks go deep into the economic life of the richly productive orchards, vineyards and truck gardens of the far west. To a lesser degree, there are also social aspects to the problem. But, basically, the Nisei is unwanted because his features and his color, and sometimes an accent, identify him as one of a race, some members of which have undersold and outproduced white American neighbors.

Secretary Ickes' blast is good enough as a method of focusing attention of the rest of the country on the rank racial discrimination of some of these western communities. It is much to be hoped that the western states and local governments, to uphold their own good name, will put an end to such persecution of a racial minority. Further, the situation should serve to emphasize the extent to which racial discrimination still exists in fair America and the extremes to which it leads.

As Americans, of every racial background, side by side, lay down their lives for democracy on the battlefields of the world, as Americans pray that democracy shall be extended to the benighted and the oppressed nations of all the world, **let us give thought to bringing the full blessings and full justice of democracy to all Americans, in all America!**

The PHILADELPHIA RECORD
May 17, 1945

West Coast Storm Troopers

Among the glorious pages of the American war record will be one of shame.

It will recount the injustice, hoodlumism, native terrorism practiced upon native Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Once again going to bat for racial minorities, Secretary of the Interior Ickes has denounced the "Nazi storm-trooper tactics" of lawless elements on the West Coast.

There have been 24 incidents of violence and intimidation in the last four months against Japanese-Americans who have returned to California from relocation centers.

That is bad enough. But most frightening is Ickes' report that *no suspects have been brought to trial in any of 15 "shooting attempts" in rural California areas.*

State and county law enforcement agencies are either conniving with the terrorists or condoning their vicious behavior.

Two-thirds of the 110,000 Japanese-Americans in this country were born here. They have the rights of any other American under law. Japanese-Americans have fought valiantly in our armed forces. They have a splendid bond-buying record. They have given their blood to the Red Cross.

Now they are going home—only to be confronted with the night-rider's torch, bullets from ambush, curses and threats.

Before the eyes of the visiting diplomats of nations of the world at San Francisco, this constitutes a national disgrace.

We believe with Ickes the West Coast terrorism is the work of a small minority. But it's about time that the decent, humane majority put an end to this persecution.

The Santa Barbara, Calif. NEWS PRESS

May 22, 1945

THE $64 QUESTION - IN GERMANY AND CALIFORNIA

A speaker representing the California Youth Authority was asked, following his talk on youth problems before a women's organization recently, "What can be done about the re-education of youth in Germany, to rid them of their Nazi philosophy?"

It was, as the speaker confessed, "the $64 question," and he admitted he did not have answer. Nor are there many Americans who can feel confident they have the right answer to this problem.

But Santa Barbarans, and Californians, might make a start toward discovering the right answer by looking at a similar problem right in our own back yard.

Secretary Ickes has focused national attention on the "planned terrorism by hoodlums" against persons of Japanese descent in certain sections of California. He lists shooting attempts, one attempted dynamiting, three arson cases and five threatening visits. And he said the only instance in which arrests were made and a trial held, a case listed by the War Relocation Authority as a dynamiting attempt, resulted in acquittal by the jury of three defendants. Ickes declared:

> In the absence of vigorous local law enforcement, a pattern of planned terrorism by hoodlums has developed. It is a matter of national concern because this lawless minority, whose actions are condemned by the decent citizens who make up an overwhelming majority of West Coast residents, seems determined to employ its Nazi storm-trooper tactics. many of the evacuees' Nisei sons are fighting the Japanese enemy in the Philippines, at Okinawa and in other Pacific combat areas. They are far more in the American tradition than the race-baiters fighting a private war safely at home.

"Here is a problem primarily of law enforcement and law observance, right in our own State. We cannot, as California citizens, do much about safeguarding representative government and democratic freedom in Poland, in Greece, in Spain or in Argentina. But we can demand that our State Government and our various County officials observe and defend the letter and the spirit of the American Constitution in regard to minority groups of American citizens.

We cannot, as Californians, do much about cleansing the minds and hearts of German youth of Nazi cruelty, arrogance, intolerance and sadism. But we can, if we really desire, exert an influence on the youths and the adults of California against hoodlumism, arrogance, intolerance and cruelty.

If in this state which stands high in education, culture and enlightenment, we cannot cure our own ills of bigotry, hatred, greed and "know-nothing" mob spirit, then heaven help us in trying to set up a world organization for peace and justice.

The $64 question is aimed at California, as well as at Germany."

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Washington Calling

By Marquis Childs

SYNDICATED TO PAPERS OF MANY STATES.... May 24, 1945

West Coast Terror

THE WAR DEPARTMENT is following with deep concern the recent outbreaks in California against Japanese-American citizens who have left relocation camps to return to their homes. The War Department fixed the policy, over the firm opposition of the Department of Justice, of taking one group of American citizens on the basis of their racial origin and placing them as a group in detention camps.

It is this responsibility, in setting a precedent contrary to all American tradition, that is worrying civilian heads of the department. Moreover, the Army recognizes a duty to returning veterans and they are wondering how far they will have to go in protecting Japanese-American veterans, a high proportion of whom have Purple Hearts, when they return from the war.

About 15 terrorist attacks on returned Nisei have occurred thus far. There have been four cases of attempted arson and seven threats. In the most recent instances reported to Washington, cars have driven by Nisei homes at a high rate of speed and the occupants have fired into the house.

IN ONE CASE, the home owner was a returned veteran. With him was a Nisei friend in uniform on furlough. So far no one has been hit, but that seems to have been merely accidental.

When I was in Italy recently, American officers without exception spoke in praise of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, which is made up of Japanese-Americans with their officers of non-Japanese descent drawn mostly from the Middle West. And loudest in their praise were the officers serving with the Nisei.

Beginning with the landing at Salerno, they went through all the hell of the Italian campaign. The 100th Infantry Battalion was one of the first to receive a unit Presidential Citation. The Nisei were cited again for an outstanding performance at Belvedere and Sassetta, when they neutralized a German strong point and sent the enemy reeling in disordered retreat.

The story is the same here at the War Department. In War Department files are numerous instances in which Nisei have distinguished themselves in the Pacific War. They have given invaluable assistance in intelligence and reconnaissance work that often was carried out at the utmost peril.

These men coming back from the war deserve something better than hoodlumism. They regarded themselves as Americans—most of them could not even speak Japanese—and they fought like Americans.

The number of Nisei returning to the West Coast is very small. The recent attacks cannot possibly be justified on the ground that the returned citizens constitute any threat to the security of the community. Latest reports showed that 1,824 had returned to California, 349 to Oregon and 364 to Washington. The large majority of those being released from relocation centers are going to the East and Middle West.

Involved in all this is more than the individual tragedy. If it were no more than that, we should simply write it down as one more entry in a record crowded with tragedies.

AMERICANS on the West Coast have one of the greatest opportunities in history. They can assume the leadership of the Pacific World. Persons who have talked recently with Gen. Douglas MacArthur tell of his conviction that America's future lies in raising the standards of sub-standard peoples in the Far East. MacArthur, who did so much to help make possible the gallant stand of the Filipinos, believes that increasingly our national opportunity will lie in the Orient.

But that can come only if we assume mature leadership. It cannot come through force. We have made an excellent beginning in the Philippines by helping a dependent people to achieve independence. That example shines out in the Pacific World.

Its meaning, however, can be completely eclipsed if we permit the poisons of racial and color hatred to come to the surface here at home. In only one instance, in Placer County, have the terrorists been brought to trial. There, according to reports to Washington, the defense attorney argued that this was a "white man's country" and it should be kept so. The jury freed the defendants.

Secretary Ickes has spoken out courageously against these outrages. So have others. This is something that concerns not just a region, but all of us.

Walter Winchell
Coast-to-Coast

May 22, 1945

The Gener... circle. He walked ... photographer, and said: "Boy, I'll ... to your mother."

Sec'y Ickes has come out swinging against the West Coast bullies who have been terrorizing loyal Jap-Americans. Every good American joins in his condemnation of these vicious poltroons... Many of the Nisei being attacked are the parents of Jap-American soldiers who are fighting and dying for America—which is something their attackers aren't doing...If those West Coast cowards are anxious to fight Japs—why don't they enlist and shoulder a gun at Okinawa—instead of black-jacking law-abiding people?

... Anthony Eden's personality there is a vein of iron. It ... he is deeply touched...Once Mr. Eden was discussing ... Cabinet) whether or not England should ... Italians...Some ministers ... that the German di-

Department of the Interior
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington, D. C. -- DAILY NEWS DIGEST -- Mon., May 28, 1945

NBC Coast-to-Coast Broadcast, Sunday, May 27
WALTER WINCHELL

Winchell told his millions of listeners about Mary Masuda, who was threatened by five men after she returned to Talbert in Orange County, Calif. He described Army service record of her four brothers, and spoke of "the rats" threatening to kill her. Mary told the men about her brother killed at Cassino, and another wounded in the Lost Battalion rescue. "They were not impressed," the Jergens Journal broadcaster said.

The county Sheriff had received her pleasantly, Winchell said, and informed her he could do nothing to the men unless an "overt act of violence" took place.

The Santa Ana Register was praised by Winchell for supporting Miss Masuda's case. He went on to advise his huge audience to read "Japanese American Soldiers Make Good," in the June American Mercury or later when it is reprinted in the July Readers Digest.

NBC Broadcast, May 26
JOHN W. VANDERCOOK

Evaluating obstacles to be overcome before victory can be achieved against Japan, Vandercook said these difficulties have been increased by American actions which give the Pacific war the aspect of a racial war. He criticized Admiral Halsey's descriptions of Japanese as sub-human and the terror attacks on the West Coast against persons of Japanese ancestry. He claimed these actions had the double effect of spurring the Japanese enemy to a more determined resistance with increased cost in American lives, at the same time making such American allies as the Chinese distrustful of the good intentions of the U.S.

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